

# How to Develop a Mission Co-Worker Relationship



*"What should be done then, my friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.*

*-1 Corinthians 14:26*



## Steps to Establish a Mission Co-Worker Relationship

*This relationship between a church and a mission co-worker provides an exciting opportunity for a church in your Conference/Region to gain a greater understanding of mission around the world.*

1. **Choose a mission co-worker.** You can find more details about each co-worker if you click on their name in the “People in Mission” section of [globalministries.org](http://globalministries.org) Everyone is excited and ready to be connected.



*Some of our co-workers from Mission Conference in August 2019*

2. **Remember** that you will be connecting both with the mission co-worker and the global partner that they work with – so consider connections that your Conference/Region may have with a geographic area or a mission issue – education, health, poverty – to learn how our global partners respond.
3. **Once you have decided, contact the Mission Personnel Office.** They will set up the connection, inform the co-worker and send needed info.
4. **A confirmation letter** will be sent to the mission co-worker, the church, and your Conference or Regional office.
5. **When the Mission Relationship is confirmed, establish guidelines** -- write your expectations and ask the Co-Worker to share theirs as well.



**Sample Certificate:**

*Global Ministries  
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
and the United Church of Christ confirms that*

*Mission Co-Worker  
assigned to  
Partner Name, Country  
and  
Church/Conference/Region,*

*have entered into a mutual relationship.  
Global Ministries commends (Co-Worker name)  
to Church/Conference/Region and asks  
for prayers and support for their ministry.*



6. **Throughout the relationship**, you will receive the co-workers' prayer card, their email to send notes, along with newsletters and a potential face-to-face visit during their home assignment.

*"[Michael Joseph visited and] spoke about the peace accord and our partners -- JUSTAPAZ and a Peace sub-committee of the Council of Churches. He talked and showed photos of the situation mainly in rural areas where workers have documented violence. He spoke of the peace process and accord and he talked about the future in Colombia. His depth of knowledge and his congenial personality make him an excellent interpreter of mission. We are in the process of developing a Partnership (through Global Ministries with Justapaz, which made this visit invaluable to us! His deep understanding of the situation there has been very helpful."*  
- Northern Lights Region

7. **If at the end of a mission co-worker's term of service**, you wish to learn about another area of mission, the Mission Personnel Office will help establish another mission co-worker relationship.



## Ways to Create a Strong Mission Co-worker Relationship:

A mission co-worker relationship can do so much to enhance your church and the regions/conferences' awareness of mission.

- ❑ A mission co-worker relationship carries no financial obligation. **Use your mission co-worker relationship to help churches in your Conference/Region understand that mission co-worker support comes from DMF or OCWM giving. These gifts provide the foundation for mission in the entire church, including the support of missionaries.**
- ❑ **Share** information about your wider Conference/Region and your hopes with your mission co-worker – they will share this with the global partner.
- ❑ Find the members in your church/Conference/Region who wish to **correspond** with your mission co-worker partner and report back to the church/Conference/Region. Ask each church school class to take one month during which they are responsible for writing. Think creatively on how to share this correspondence.
- ❑ **Pray** regularly for the mission co-worker and those they work with, maybe in a newsletter. Ask your mission co-worker to share prayer requests with the global partner that they work with and let them know your needs as well.
- ❑ **Involve** your mission co-worker partner in a variety of church group settings: Church School, worship, newsletters, group meetings. Add photos and even video! Send stories of your achievements to the mission co-worker so they can share your stories with the partners.
- ❑ **Promote the connection.** Set aside space in your newsletters or on your website to display letters and pictures from your mission co-worker. Add copies of the letters that you send. Ask your mission co-worker to send photos of the partner so that your church and Conference/Region can get a sense of the real-life of partners.
- ❑ **Educate the Conference/Region.** Supplement the letters from your mission co-worker with area information available from Global Ministries or from the library or the Internet.
- ❑ **Create cultural connections:** Think about making food from the country where your mission co-worker serves to a church potlucks or sing a song from that country in your service. Don't know a recipe or a song? Ask your mission co-worker!





## Mission Co-Worker Visits in United States and Canada

**Itineration/Home Assignment** are the months following a mission co-workers service abroad where they travel around their home country sharing stories of our global partners and Global Ministries. You can invite them to come to your church/region/conference at no cost except for housing and meals.

### Other ways to connect:

- ❑ **Visit:** Take a mission trip or people-to-people pilgrimage to the mission co-worker's country of service. Contact the People-to-People Pilgrimage Office, 317-713-2579 to work with your Conference/Region on a plan.
- ❑ **Sponsor a child or elder** from our partner organizations in the area where your mission co-worker is serving. Contact the Child and Elder Sponsorship Office for more details about the program.
- ❑ Send a letter to the **partner** via the mission co-worker. Write about your lives and your hopes for the church. Ask about their goals and struggles and prayer requests.
- ❑ **Host a Video Chat:** arrange for a time to share information in real-time with the Conference/Region for a special church event. Please give the mission co-worker ample time to prepare.
- ❑ **Host a mission fair/event** at your church and invite other churches in your area. We provide supplies from Global Ministries including a staff person to attend for big events.
- ❑ **Ask us to camp** Global Ministries is committed to sharing stories of God's work and to inspire youth to better understand the work of the church in the world. In 2019, Global Ministries worked in partnership with UCC conferences and Disciple regions to have mission co-workers participate in the outdoor ministries programs across the country. Experiences were varied - from Camp Mimanagish in Montana that hosted the whole summer, to Northern California who welcomed a global mission intern and a "mission co-worker in residence" (an international partner sharing about their work), to the joint UCC/Disciple camps in Nebraska and Arizona - a wide group of mission co-workers shared in multiple ways and venues. Youth in 54 camps across the country heard about the exciting work of God's mission in the world and had an opportunity to think about service as a vocation.

**FUN FACT:** You **do not** have to be in a relationship with a specific mission co-worker or our global partner to have a co-worker visit your region or conference.

## More About Global Ministries

*Global Ministries is a common missional witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Global Ministries works with approximately 290 faith-based international partners in close to 90 countries.*

**Vision:** That all of God's people and creation share in God's abundant life.

**Mission:** To receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

## Core Values

**Mutuality** - Walking in hope with others in God's mission.

**Justice** - Living out God's radical love by confronting powers that deny the fullness of life and the integrity of creation.

**Presence** - Manifesting God's love by living in intentional, committed relationships

**Community** - Building interdependence and unity among all of God's children.

**Peace** - Embodying reconciling relationships with God, humanity, and creation.



Mutuality



Justice



Presence



Community



Peace

Need more ways to connect to Global Ministries? Visit our website at [globalministries.org](http://globalministries.org) or contact the Mission Personnel Office, at 317-713-2566 or [cnichols@dom.disciples.org](mailto:cnichols@dom.disciples.org)

*The Global Ministries of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, is a common witness in sending and receiving persons in mission.*